

1 JOVAN BLACKNELL (SBN 237162)

2 Email: jovan@fight4justice.com

3 Attorney for Plaintiffs, Garry Matthews, Dominic Ross Hunn, and Jamar Hearn

4 LAW OFFICE OF J. BLACKNELL

5 200 Corporate Pointe, Suite 495

6 Culver City, CA 90230

7 Phone: (310) 469-9117; Fax: (310) 388-3765

8 Attorney for Plaintiffs

9 WILLIAM CLAIBORNE

10 *Pro hac vice*

11 Email: claibornelaw@gmail.com

12 Attorney for Plaintiffs, Garry Matthews, Dominic Ross Hunn, and Jamar Hearn

13 ClaiborneLaw

14 717 D Street N.W., Ste 300

15 Washington, DC 20004-2815

16 Phone: (202) 824-0700

17 Attorney for Plaintiffs

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

GARRY MATTHEWS, DOMINIC
ROSS HUNN, and JAMAR HEARNS,
individually and as class
representatives,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES, LOS
ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT,
AND LOS ANGELES BOARD OF
POLICE COMMISSIONERS,

Defendants.

Case No. **22-cv-02944-FLA-PD**

**SECOND AMENDED CLASS
ACTION COMPLAINT FOR
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND
DAMAGES**

1) DEPRIVATION OF CIVIL
RIGHTS BY ENTITY DEFENDANT
[CITY OF LOS ANGELES] (42 U.S.C.
§ 1983, MONELL)

2) DEPRIVATION OF CIVIL
RIGHTS BY ENTITY DEFENDANT
[LOS ANGELES BOARD OF
POLICE COMMISSIONERS] (42
U.S.C. § 1983, MONELL)

3) DEPRIVATION OF CIVIL
RIGHTS BY ENTITY DEFENDANT
[LOS ANGELES POLICE
DEPARTMENT] (42
U.S.C. § 1983, MONELL)

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1. Garry Matthews, Dominic Ross Hunn, and Jamar Hearn, on behalf of themselves and the Arrest Class and the Nonresident Class (both defined below), bring this action against the City of Los Angeles (sometimes the “City” or the “LA”) and the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners (sometimes the “Board of Police Commissioners” or the “Board”) and the Los Angeles Police Department (sometimes “LAPD” or the “Department”) under 42 U.S.C.A. § 1983 for injuries they suffered during the Class Period because the City’s and the Board’s and LAPD’s unconstitutional "no-issue" CCW policies (concealed weapons permit) and other

1 unconstitutional gun control laws, which were officially adopted and promulgated by
2 the City's policymakers, caused them and the other members of the Arrest Class and
3 the Nonresident Class to be arrested and detained merely for the permissible Second
4 Amendment conduct of carrying a handgun for general self-defense outside the home
5 or place of business.

6 2. A concealed weapons permit (or "CCW") issued by the sheriff of a county or
7 the police chief of a municipality is the only means by which ordinary citizens may
8 legally carry firearms in public in California. Absent a CCW, it is a crime for
9 ordinary citizens to carry either a loaded or an unloaded handgun in public, regardless
10 of whether the weapon is concealed or openly carried, with certain exceptions not
11 relevant here.

12 3. The two key, undisputed facts in this case are that there were no actions that
13 the Plaintiffs or the other class members could have taken during the relevant time
14 period that would have allowed them to carry a handgun for general self-defense in
15 the City of Los Angeles because: (1) the City's Police Chief exercised their discretion
16 to issue licenses to refuse to issue CCWs for the lawful Second Amendment purpose
17 of general self-defense, and imposed a virtual complete prohibition on the issuance of
18 CCWs; and (2) the City's Police Chief through the LAPD enforced State laws, which,
19 as interpreted and implemented by the Chief and the other Defendants, criminalized
20 carrying a handgun outside the home because no CCW was obtainable.

21 4. By adopting and following a City policy of refusing to issue CCWs for general
22 self-defense and then by adopting and following a City policy of enforcing State laws
23 prohibiting carrying a handgun outside the home without a CCW, the City violated
24 their Second Amendment rights, and, in the case of Mr. Matthews and the Nonresident
25 Class, the City violated their Fourteenth Amendment rights.

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6. Venue is proper in this jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C.A. §1391(b) because the events or omissions underlying the claims occurred in this judicial district.

7. Garry Matthews, Dominic Ross Hunn, and Jamar Hearn are adult natural persons.
8. Plaintiff Garry Matthews was at the time of his arrest and detention a resident of the State of Tennessee.
9. Plaintiff Dominic Hunn was at the time of his arrest and detention a resident of the City of Los Angeles.
10. In the alternative, Plaintiff Dominic Hunn was at the time of his arrest and detention a resident of the County of Los Angeles
11. Jamar Hearn was at the time of his arrest and detention a resident of the City of Los Angeles.
12. Defendant City of Los Angeles is a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of California.
13. Defendant Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners, also known as the Police Commission, is a five-member civilian body that oversees the City of Los Angeles Police Department pursuant to the powers granted it by the City of Los Angeles in the City Charter.
14. Defendant Los Angeles Police Department, officially known as the City of Los Angeles Police Department, is the municipal police department of the City of Los Angeles, California.

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The City of Los Angeles' Handgun Regulation Policies Caused the Arrest and Detention of Otherwise Law-Abiding Ordinary People like Named Plaintiffs and the Other Class Members

15. For years the City of Los Angeles has maintained some of the most restrictive gun laws in the State, and in fact in the nation, pursuant to a comprehensive set of municipal ordinances setting forth its own handgun policies that regulate the sale, possession and use and licensing of firearms and ammunition within its boundaries that is much more restrictive than the State statutory scheme requires. Los Angeles Municipal Code Sec. 55.00 *et seq.* (Firearms – Dangerous Weapons).

16. The Board of Police Commissioners has opted to exercise a grant of authority to issue CCWs on behalf of the City.

17. Until about June 24, 2022, the Board had discretion in the definition of “good cause” it adopted and enforced and implemented for issuing CCWs.

18. But, the Chief elected to promulgate and to follow an official written policy on issuing CCWs that was tantamount to a total ban on the carriage of handguns outside the home for the general purpose of self-defense in violation of the Second Amendment because issuance of CCWs is conditioned on a finding of “good cause,” and the Board defined good cause as a special need to defend against threats specific to themselves.

19. The definition of good cause the Chief adopted as its official policy until about June 24, 2022, was so restrictive that it acted as a total ban on the carriage of handguns outside the home for the general purpose of self-defense in violation of the Second Amendment. LAPD Carry Concealed Weapon License Policy, promulgated by the Chief of Police of the Los Angeles Police Department.¹

20. The definition of good cause the Chief adopted as their official policy violated the Second Amendment by inverting the burden of proof established by the Second

¹ <https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/2022/02/Updated-2021-CCW-concealed-weapons-Policy.pdf>

1 Amendment by requiring applicants for CCWs to prove that they were entitled to
2 carry a pistol outside the home for self-defense by demonstrating a need for self-
3 defense greater than that of the general public, such as being the target of personal
4 threats, rather than treating applicants as entitled to carry a pistol outside the home for
5 self-defense unless the Chief establishes that applicants have a disability such as
6 insanity.

7 21. The City's policies expressed in the City Council's expression of its restrictive
8 firearms policy in the municipal code and the Board of Police Commissioner's narrow
9 definition of good cause expressing that City policy created a Catch 22 for residents
10 and non-residents alike.

11 22. Even though the Chief would not issue CCWs for the general purpose of self-
12 defense, and the Chief would not issue CCWs to non-residents for any purpose, the
13 Chief and the Chief enforced the City and State (as interpreted and implemented by
14 the Chief) bans on carriage of a handgun outside the home for the constitutional
15 general purpose of self-defense.

16 23. The licensing scheme simultaneously precluded the People from obtaining a
17 license to carry their handguns outside of the home or place of business for self-
18 defense while subjecting the People to criminal sanctions for the constitutional
19 conduct of possessing or carrying a handgun outside the home even when carried for
20 the constitutionally permissible purpose of self-defense.

21 24. The Chief's licensing scheme also specifically excluded individuals who do
22 not reside in the City or another jurisdiction in California from possessing or carrying
23 a pistol because the gun control regime requires gun registration applicants to submit
24 proof of residency in the City.

25 25. Many Americans visit the City every year because it is one of the premiere
26 tourist destinations in the country.

27 26. Venice Beach is the second largest tourist attraction in California, after
28 Disneyland.

1 27. Many states which allow their citizens to carry pistols actually have places at
2 their tourist sites and legislative assemblies and high courts where citizens can check
3 their guns.

4 28. As a result, each year the City's unconstitutional gun control laws subjected
5 hundreds of otherwise law-abiding citizens to misdemeanor or felony arrests and
6 convictions and the attendant disabilities following a conviction (*e.g.*, loss of access to
7 federal jobs) because of what were regulatory violations.

8 **Mr. Matthews, Mr. Hunn and Mr. Hearn Typify the Type of Law-Abiding**
9 **Citizen Who Ran afoul of the City's Unconstitutional Handgun Laws**

10 29. Mr. Matthews, Mr. Hunn and Mr. Hearn typify the type of law-abiding citizen
11 who ran afoul of the City's unconstitutional handgun laws.
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13 **Dominic Ross Hunn's Arrest and Detention**
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15 30. Mr. Hunn typifies the type of law-abiding citizen who ran afoul of the City's
16 unconstitutional handgun gun regulation laws.

17 31. Mr. Hunn is an entertainer of national repute. Better known by his stage name,
18 Dom Kennedy, Mr. Hunn is a rapper from Leimert Park, Los Angeles, California.

19 32. Since 2008, Mr. Hunn has released 5 independent mixtapes, most notably his
20 2010 critically acclaimed mixtape From the Westside with Love.

21 33. Mr. Hunn was arrested by Los Angeles City Police Department for carrying a
22 handgun outside the home in his vehicle without a CCW on about November 24,
23 2020.

24 34. Mr. Hunn had no prior arrests.

25 35. Mr. Hunn was arrested for felony possession of a concealed weapon without a
26 CCW.

27 36. The Chief caused him to be held in the LAPD and the LA County jail and on
28 information and belief the City referred his case for prosecution.

1 37. Mr. Hunn was in jail that night until about 2:00 a.m.

2 38. Mr. Hunn bailed out on \$35,000 bail for which he had to pay approximately
3 \$3,500.

4 39. Mr. Hunn's arrest was never prosecuted.

5 **Jamar Hearn's Arrest and Detention**

6 40. Mr. Hearn typifies the type of law-abiding citizen who ran afoul of the City's
7 unconstitutional handgun gun regulation laws.

8 41. Mr. Hearn had no prior arrests.

9 42. At the time of his arrest in this case Mr. Hearn was 21 years old.

10 43. Mr. Hearn was arrested by Los Angeles City Police Department for suspicion
11 of carrying a handgun outside the home on his person without a CCW a few feet from
12 his home on about June 22, 2022.

13 44. Mr. Hearn was in the LAPD jail for several hours.

14 45. Mr. Hearn bailed out on bail or was released on personal recognizance.

15 46. The City caused him to be held in the LAPD jail and the City referred his case
16 for prosecution.

17 47. A few weeks after the arrest the prosecutor sent Mr. Hearn a letter informing
18 him that the prosecutor had nolle prosequi the prosecution.

19 **Garry Matthews' Arrest and Detention**

20 48. Mr. Matthews, a Tennessean, who lawfully owned a gun there, was arrested
21 for unlicensed carriage while visiting family in California on 9/27/2019.

22 49. Mr. Matthews was a resident of Tennessee at the time of his arrest and
23 detention.

24 50. Mr. Matthews was a law-abiding citizen at the time of his arrest.

25 51. Mr. Matthews had a license issued in Tennessee to carry a handgun concealed
26 outside the home at the time of his arrest and detention.

1 52. While driving his car in LA Mr. Matthews was arrested by the LAPD after
2 LAPD stopped his car and found a loaded handgun in a pocket in the driver's side
3 door.

4 53. Mr. Matthews had been in California for a couple weeks living with his in-
5 laws while he found a place for his wife and himself to live in the City of Los
6 Angeles.

7 54. He was doing some volunteer work with a youth football team. After an event
8 with the team, he gave one of the football players a ride home in his 2006 Chevy
9 Tahoe displaying valid Tennessee plates that was insured and validly registered to
10 him. The football player lived in the city of Los Angeles.

11 55. On the way to the football player's house, Mr. Matthews' Chevy Tahoe was
12 stopped by LAPD.

13 56. Mr. Matthews can see no reason for the stop.

14 57. The officer said that the stop was due to the tint on his windows. Mr.
15 Matthews does have tint, but it is not a dark tint. (In California the front driver and
16 passenger windows can be tinted but only to a certain level).

17 58. The officer ordered Mr. Matthews out of the Chevy Tahoe.

18 59. The officer verified license, insurance, and registration.

19 60. As was his right Mr. Matthews demanded to know why he was stopped and
20 detained and the officer told him this was protocol.

21 61. Once out of the car, the officer searched Mr. Matthew's Chevy Tahoe without
22 Mr. Matthews' consent.

23 62. Mr. Matthews had a handgun in a pocket in the driver's door. The officer
24 discovered the gun.

25 63. The gun is registered to Mr. Matthews in Tennessee. Mr. Matthews has a
26 license to carry a concealed weapon in Tennessee.

27 64. Mr. Matthews has worked as an armed security guard.

28 65. Mr. Matthews was arrested for felony possession of a concealed weapon.

1 66. The City caused him to be held in the LA County jail and on information and
2 belief the City referred his case for prosecution.

3 67. Mr. Matthews was in jail overnight.

4 68. He bailed out on \$30,000 bail for which he had to pay approximately \$3,500.

5 69. He has no prior record.

6 70. He eventually entered into a deferred sentencing agreement.

7 71. He entered a guilty plea to a misdemeanor gun possession. He successfully
8 completed all the terms of his probation including 100 hours of community service.

9 72. Upon completion of all the terms of his probation, he withdrew the plea
10 according to the terms of the deferred sentencing agreement and the case was
11 dismissed.

12 73. The injury to Mr. Matthews caused by the defendants' policies continued from
13 the time of his arrest until the dismissal of the prosecution against him.

14 74. Mr. Matthews had to pay for a lawyer to represent him.

15 **CCW POLICIES ADOPTED BY THE THE CHIEF AND THE CITY OF LOS**
16 **ANGELES**

17 **DURING THE CLASS PERIOD WERE UNCONSTITUTIONAL**

18 **General Prohibition of California State Law against Carrying Loaded or**
19 **Unloaded Concealed Weapons without a CCW issued by the local Chief or Police**
20 **or Sherriff**

21 75. The following allegations relating to California's statutory scheme regulating
22 firearms were accurate at least up until about June 24, 2022, when the Attorney
23 General of the State of California announced that, "in accordance with *Bruen*, the
24 Attorney General considers the "good cause" requirements set forth in California
25 Penal Code sections 26150(a)(2) and 26155(a)(2) to be unconstitutional and
26 unenforceable."

27 76. Defendants also stopped enforcing their own version of the good cause
28 requirement at about the same time.

1 77. State law generally prohibits carrying concealed firearms in public, whether
2 loaded or unloaded. Cal. Penal Code § 25400; *Id.* § 25605. State law also generally
3 prohibits carrying loaded firearms on the person or in a vehicle in any public place or
4 on any public street, in either an incorporated city or a "prohibited area" of
5 "unincorporated territory." *Id.* § 25850.

6 78. Finally, state law generally prohibits carrying unloaded handguns openly on
7 the person in a public place or on a public street, in either an incorporated city or a
8 "prohibited area" of an "unincorporated area of a county." *Id.* § 26350.

9 79. But all is not lost for handgun owners who wanted to carry their handguns
10 outside their homes or places of business for the Constitutional purpose of self-
11 defense. The prohibition of § 25400 does not apply to those who have been issued
12 licenses to carry concealed weapons ("CCWs") by their local Sheriff or Police Chief.
13 *Id.* § 26150; *Id.* § 26155.

14 **California Delegates to Sheriff or Chief of Police Discretion Whether to Issue**
15 **CCWs**

16 80. A key provision of the State's licensing regime is that the State statute
17 regarding issuance of licenses to carry outside the home delegates to the unfettered
18 discretion of the County Sheriff or Police Chief the decision whether to issue
19 licenses if the applicant meets the State-imposed requirements regarding residency
20 and course of training upon a showing that: "[t]he applicant is of good moral
21 character," and, until June 24, 2022, "[g]ood cause exists for issuance of the license".
22 *See* Cal. Penal Code § 26150(a) ("... the sheriff of a county may issue a license to
23 [applicant upon proof that: applicant is of good moral character, shows good cause,
24 and is a resident of the county, completes course of training]") (emphasis added);
25 Cal. Penal Code § 26155 (same "may-issue" rule for "the chief or other head of a
26 municipal police department").

27 81. The statutes allowed the local Sheriff or Police Chief to establish their own
policy for the issuance of CCWs because the statutes allowed them to set the

1 definition of “good cause exists for issuance of the license.” Cal. Penal Code §
2 26150(a)(2); Cal. Penal Code § 26155(a)(2).

3 82. The statute also allows the local Sheriff or Police Chief to establish their own
4 policy for the issuance of CCWs because the statutes allowed them to set the
5 definition of “good moral character.” Cal. Penal Code § 26155(a)(1) (Chief).

6 83. This provision delegating the State’s authority is one of the most important
7 provisions in the entire statutory regime because it effectively vests authority to
8 establish policy governing the carriage of handguns outside the home in the local
9 Sheriff or Chief who acts as the policymaker for the county or municipality
10 respectively.

11 84. A Sheriff’s or Chief’s policy ranged from “no issue” to “shall issue” depending
12 on how the Sheriff or Chief chose to define “good cause.”

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15 85. For example, the Ventura County Sheriff established a policy of issuing CCWs
16 under which “a [general] need for personal safety or self-defense” satisfies the “good
17 cause” provision of the statute until about June 24, 2022.

18 86. Moreover, enforcement of the State laws sometimes varies with rural counties
19 being more lenient and urban counties strictly enforcing all firearms laws.

20 87. A sheriff or a chief of police acted for the county or municipality when they
21 exercised the “may issue” discretion delegated to them by the State under the statute
22 to establish a definition of “good cause.”

23 88. A sheriff or a chief of police acted for the county or municipality when they
24 decided how strictly or leniently they enforce firearms laws or they implement an
25 enforcement policy set by the county or municipality.

The Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners and the LAPD

89. The Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners, also known as the Police Commission, is a five-member civilian body that oversees the LAPD pursuant to the powers granted it by the City of Los Angeles in the City Charter.

90. The Board's five civilian members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Los Angeles City Council.²

91. The Police Commission sets overall policy for the LAPD while the Chief of Police manages the daily operations of the Department and implements the Police Commission's policies or policy direction and goals.

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92. The Board's five-member civilian body functions "like a corporate board of directors" for the Los Angeles Police Department, taking on roles that include developing and analyzing police policies and monitoring policy implementation.³

93. The Police Commission works in conjunction with the Chief of Police who acts as a chief executive officer and reports to the Board.

94. Under the City Charter, the Board of Police Commissioners shall have the power to issue instructions to the Chief of Police concerning the exercise of the authority conferred on the Chief of Police by the City Charter.

95. The Chief of Police reports to the board and the rest of the department reports to the Chief.

² The Function and Role of the Board of Police Commissioners, L.A. Police Dep't, http://www.lapdonline.org/police_commission/content_basic_view/900 [https://perma.cc/BP23-3PPJ]

³ Police Commission, L.A. Police Dep't, http://www.lapdonline.org/police_commission [https://perma.cc/C7EZ-WPTE]. The Board's five civilian members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Los Angeles City Council. The Function and Role of the Board of Police Commissioners, L.A. Police Dep't, http://www.lapdonline.org/police_commission/content_basic_view/900 [https://perma.cc/BP23-3PPJ].

1 96. The Chief of Police exercises their duties subject to the City, the provisions of
2 the Charter, the rules of the Police Department, and the instruction of the Board of
3 Police Commissioners.

4 **Prior to June 24, 2022, the Chief and the City of Los Angeles Adopted a “No**
5 **Issue” CCW policy to Impose a Total Ban on Carriage of Handguns outside the**
6 **Home for Self-Defense**

7 97. Prior to June 24, 2022, the Los Angeles City Council expressed its policy on
8 CCWs for handguns as follows:

9 The Board of Police Commissioners shall have power to issue to any
10 person, *who in the judgment of said board, shall have such privilege, a*
11 *written permit to carry concealed any of the weapons [such as a pistol]*
12 *specified in the preceding section. (emphasis added)*

13 98. Los Angeles Municipal Code Secs. SEC. 55.01 (Concealed Weapons –
14 Permit); 55.02 (Concealed Weapons – Permit – Record).

15 99. The City of Los Angeles also adopted a comprehensive set of municipal
16 ordinances that regulate the sale, possession and use of firearms and ammunition
17 within its boundaries. Los Angeles Municipal Code Sec. 55.00 *et seq.* (Firearms –
18 Dangerous Weapons) (prohibiting discharging pistol without written permit from
19 Board of Police Commissioners).

20 100. For example, Section 55.00 provides that:

21 No person shall fire, shoot or discharge any gun, rifle, pistol or other
22 firearm, or any air-gun, air-rifle or air-pistol, or any spring-gun, spring-
23 rifle or spring-pistol, or any carbon dioxide or other gas operated gun,
24 rifle or pistol without having first obtained a written permit from the
25 Board of Police Commissioners.

26 101. Los Angeles Municipal Code Sec. 55.00 *et seq.* (prohibiting discharging pistol
27 without written permit from Board of Police Commissioners).

1 102. Some of the City's laws were more restrictive than the corresponding State
2 provisions during the class period in this case.

3 103. For example, the Los Angeles Municipal Code provides that:

4 No person shall fire, shoot or discharge any gun, rifle, pistol or other
5 firearm, or any air-gun, air-rifle or air-pistol, or any spring-gun, spring-
6 rifle or spring-pistol, or any carbon dioxide or other gas operated gun,
7 rifle or pistol without having first obtained a written permit [CCW] from
8 the Board of Police Commissioners.

9 Los Angeles Municipal Code Sec. 55.00 (prohibiting discharging pistol without
10 written permit from Board of Police Commissioners).

11 104. Los Angeles Municipal Code Sec. 55.00 is more restrictive than any provision
12 in State law because it does not have any type of immediate danger" exception for
13 self-defense. Cal. Penal Code § 26045(a) (West 2012). The State law immediate
14 danger exception is also incorporated into the unloaded open carry bans. See Cal.
15 Penal Code §§26362, 26405(f) (West 2012).

16 **The Board of Police Commissioners Has Authority to Issue CCW Licenses to**
17 **Residents of the City.**

18 105. The City empowered the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners to issue
19 CCW licenses to residents of the City during the class period in this case "who in the
20 judgment of [the Board of Police Commissioners], shall have such privilege." Los
21 Angeles Municipal Code Secs. SEC. 55.01 (Concealed Weapons – Permit).⁴

22 106. The Board is subject to the City but the Board is the policymaker for the Chief
23 and the LAPD.

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26 ⁴ Pursuant to California Penal Code section 26155, in the City of Los Angeles, the Chief of Police of the Los Angeles
27 Police Department ("LAPD" or "Department") may issue a license to a person to carry a pistol, revolver, or other firearm
28 capable of being concealed upon the person upon proof that the person applying for the license is of good moral
29 character, that good cause exists for the issuance of the license, that the person is a resident of the City of Los Angeles,
30 and the person has completed a required course of training.

1 107. The Board's five civilian members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed
2 by the Los Angeles City Council.⁵

3 108. The Board's five-member civilian body functions "like a corporate board of
4 directors" for the Los Angeles Police Department, taking on roles that include
5 developing and analyzing police policies and monitoring policy implementation.⁶

6 109. The Board adopted policies setting forth the criteria they consider when
7 deciding when to issue a CCW license which allows issuance of a CCW only if the
8 applicant can prove a special need for self-defense.

9 110. The Chief 's and the LAPD's written policy in effect until June 24, 2022,
10 defined "good cause" as follows:

11 GOOD CAUSE: The policy LAPD has adopted is that good cause exists
12 if there is convincing evidence of a clear and present danger to life or of
13 great bodily injury to the applicant, his (or her) spouse, or dependent
14 child, which cannot be adequately dealt with by existing law enforcement
15 resources, and which danger cannot be reasonably avoided by alternative
16 measures, and which danger would be significantly mitigated by the
17 applicant's carrying of a concealed firearm.

18 LAPD Carry Concealed Weapon License Policy.⁷

19 111. Pursuant to the Judgment of Declaratory Relief in *Anthony Assenza, et al. v.*
20 *City of Los Angeles*, et al., certain other rules and guidelines apply to the
21 interpretation and implementation of the Department's good cause policy. *Id.*
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24 ⁵ The Function and Role of the Board of Police Commissioners, L.A.
Police Dep't, http://www.lapdonline.org/police_commission/content_basic_view/900 [https://perma.cc/BP23-3PPJ]

25 ⁶ Police Commission, L.A. Police Dep't, http://www.lapdonline.org/police_commission [https://perma.cc/C7EZ-WPTE].
26 The Board's five civilian members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Los Angeles City Council. The
27 Function and Role of the Board of Police Commissioners, L.A. Police
Dep't, http://www.lapdonline.org/police_commission/content_basic_view/900 [https://perma.cc/BP23-3PPJ].

28 ⁷ <https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/2022/02/Updated-2021-CCW-concealed-weapons-Policy.pdf>

The Chief Used the “good cause” Provision and its “may issue” Discretion to Impose a Total Ban on Carriage of Handguns outside the Home for Self-Defense

112. The City of Los Angeles used the “good cause” provision and its “may issue” discretion to impose what amounts to a total ban on carriage of handguns outside the home for self-defense.

113. The polices of the City, the Board and the LAPD established the meaning of “good cause” as a Catch 22 to totally ban carriage of handguns outside the home and place of business: you are free to carry a concealed handgun outside the home if you get a license from us, but, we will not give you a license; and if you carry a handgun outside the home or place of business without a license, we will arrest you, charge you with a crime, and detain you.

114. Only the Chief could grant a CCW and the Chief’s discretion to grant or deny an application for a CCW was total because there was no appeal from the Chief’s decisions, and the Chief considered public carry a privilege bestowed by the Chief and the other Defendants and not a Second Amendment right.

115. The only persons who satisfied the Board’s definition of “good cause” during the approximately three-year period between February 2019 and June 24, 2022, when the Attorney General of the State of California declared the good cause requirement unconstitutional, were three federal firearms license dealers and one prop master for film and television.

116. The only criteria the Chief enforced regarding CCWs during the approximately three-year period February 2019 and June 24, 2022, were the good cause requirement and the residency requirements (applicants had to be residents of the City of Los Angeles).

117. The Chief did not enforce the “good moral character” requirement during the approximately three-year period before June 24, 2022.

118. The Chief fashioned their own policy and substantive rules for issuing CCWs during the approximately three-year period from February 2019 to June 24, 2022.

1 119. The Chief's policy was so restrictive that during the approximately the
2 approximately three-year period from February 2019 to June 24, 2022, that only
3 about 300 applicants applied for CCWs.

4 120. It was common knowledge that during the approximately the approximately
5 three-year period from February 2019 to June 24, 2022, the Chief had an extremely
6 restrictive "no issue" policy governing CCWs, and the Chief virtually never issued
7 CCWs.

8 121. During the approximately the approximately three-year period from February
9 2019 to June 24, 2022, only 300 persons even applied, and one person handled the
10 initial coordination of applications and the Chief reviewed and approved every grant
11 or denial.

12 122. When the LAPD eliminated its restrictive "good cause" requirement the
13 number of CCW applications increased so much that the unit brought on five more
14 staff to handle the initial coordination of applications.

15 123. The number of applications post *Bruen* since the elimination of the good cause
16 requirement has soared to roughly 1,500 as of October 4, 2023.

17 **SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS FOR CLAIMS**

18 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

19 **(Second Amendment Arrest/ Detention Claim)**

20 124. The preceding paragraphs are incorporated as though fully stated herein.

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23 125. the Second and Fourteenth Amendments protect an individual's right to carry a
24 handgun for self-defense outside the home.

25 126. The City's gun control regime during the Class Period (including its laws,
26 customs, practices, and policies banning the carrying and transporting of handguns in
27 public) violated the Second and Fourteenth Amendments because it effected a total
28 ban on carrying handguns outside the home.

1 127. An applicant for a CCW under the defendants' definition of "good cause"
2 shows "good cause" only if they can demonstrate a special need for self-protection
3 distinguishable from that of the general community and satisfy the City, the Board,
4 and LAPD's unfettered discretion.

5 128. During the approximately the approximately three-year period from February
6 2019 to June 24, 2022, only 300 persons even applied, and the Chief granted only four
7 CCWs, granting three to federal firearms license dealers and one to a prop master for
8 film and television.

9 129. Criminalizing conduct protected by the Second Amendment through the
10 Fourteenth Amendments violates the Amendments.

11 130. The City and the Chief enforced its unconstitutional gun control regime against
12 the Second Amendment Named Plaintiffs Dominic Hunn, Garry Matthews, and
13 Jamar Hearn and the other Second Amendment Arrest Class members in violation of
14 their Second and Fourteenth Amendment rights by arresting and detaining them, and
15 referring them for prosecution.

16 131. Mr. Hunn and Mr. Hearn were never prosecuted.

17 132. The City enforced its unconstitutional gun control regime against Named
18 Plaintiffs' and the other Second Amendment Arrest Class members directly through
19 its LAPD which arrested and detained or caused to be detained or prosecuted people
20 pursuant to its unconstitutional gun control regime.

21 133. The moving force of the constitutional violations was the Chief's no-issue
22 CCW policy and the Chief's enforcement of its unconstitutional gun control regime
23 and the Chief's arresting and detaining persons for carrying a handgun outside the
24 home without a CCW.

25 134. The Second Amendment Named Plaintiffs and the other class members are
26 therefore entitled to monetary compensation and the other relief described herein.

27 135. The City and the Chief had a policy of imposing a total ban on carrying
28 handguns outside the home.

1 136. Alternatively, independent of any State licensing regime and independent of
2 any authority delegated to it by the State, the City had a custom of denying virtually
3 all CCW applications which effectively imposed a total ban on carrying handguns
4 outside the home. The City knew or should have known or must have known of the
5 custom or practice, did nothing to stop it, and in fact acquiesced in it.

6 137. Named Plaintiff and the other class members suffered humiliation, emotional
7 distress, loss of earnings, general damages, and legal and bail expenses that resulted
8 from being arrested under an unconstitutional policy.

9 138. Named Plaintiff and the other class members are therefore entitled to the relief
10 described below.

11 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

12 **(Fourteenth Amendment Right to Travel - Nonresident Class Arrest Claim)**

13 139. The preceding paragraphs are incorporated as though fully stated herein.

14 140. The City's gun control regime during the Class Period (including its laws,
15 customs, practices and policies banning the carrying of handguns in public) violated
16 the 14th Amendment rights to travel and equal protection with respect to non-
17 residents because it effected a total ban on carrying pistols in the City for non-
18 residents because the gun control regime prevented registering their handguns and
19 licensing them and the LAPD police Chief refused to register their handguns or issue
20 them licenses and continues to do so.

21 141. The City enforced its unconstitutional gun control regime against the Non-
22 resident Named Plaintiffs' and the other Nonresident Class members in violation of
23 their 5th Amendment rights by arresting and detaining them.

24 142. The City enforced its unconstitutional gun control regime against the Non-
25 resident Named Plaintiffs' and the other Nonresident Class Arrest Class members
26 directly through its LAPD which arrested and detained people pursuant to its
27 unconstitutional gun control regime.

1 143. The City also enforced its unconstitutional gun control regime against other
2 Nonresident Class Arrest Class members indirectly through other police forces by
3 enabling other police forces in the City to arrest and detain them pursuant to its
4 unconstitutional gun control regime. The City received into custody, processed, and
5 detained persons arrested by other police forces in the City. The City is liable for
6 detaining such persons even if it is not liable for the actual arrests.

7 144. The moving force of the constitutional violations was the City's enactment and
8 enforcement of its unconstitutional gun control regime.

9 ///

10 145. The Non-resident Named Plaintiffs and the other Nonresident Class Arrest
11 Class members suffered humiliation, emotional distress, physical harm, loss of
12 earnings, general damages, and legal expenses that resulted from being arrested
13 and/or detained because of the City's enactment and enforcement of its
14 unconstitutional gun control regime.

15 146. The Non-resident Named Plaintiffs and the other Nonresident Class Arrest
16 Class members are therefore entitled to monetary compensation and the other relief
17 described herein.

18 **RULE 23 ALLEGATIONS**

19 147. Named Plaintiffs on behalf of themselves and the Second Amendment Class
20 and the Nonresident Class Arrest Class bring this action under Rules 23(a), 23(b) (2)
21 and 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of the following two
22 classes consisting of each person who:

23 148. **Second Amendment Class:** (i) in the period beginning two years before the
24 date of filing of the original complaint in this case and going forward until June 24,
25 2022; (ii) was arrested by the City's police force; (iii) or booked and detained or
26 caused to be detained by the City's police force even though arrested by another law
27 enforcement agency; (iv) for violation of any of the California laws regarding

1 carrying a handgun or ammunition without a CCW; (v) while carrying a pistol
2 outside their home or place of business concealed or openly.

3 149. **Nonresident Class Arrest Class:** (i) in the period beginning two years before
4 the date of filing of the original complaint in this case and going forward until June
5 24, 2023; (ii) was arrested and/or arrested and detained (including subjected to
6 conditions of release) in the City for violation of for violation of any of the California
7 laws regarding carrying a handgun or ammunition without a CCW; (iii) for conduct
8 involving any of, or any combination of, carrying or possessing a pistol or
9 ammunition outside their home or place of business for violation of any of the
10 California laws regarding carrying a handgun or ammunition without a CCW; (v)
11 while carrying a pistol outside their home or place of business concealed or openly;
12 and (iv) while a nonresident of the State of California at the time of the arrest and/or
13 detention.

14 150. Certification of the class under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) is
15 appropriate, because the City has a policy, pattern, and practice for each claim that
16 has uniformly affected all members the class, and injunctive relief and declaratory
17 judgment and a judgment against the City will benefit each and every plaintiff and
18 class member.

19 151. The classes are entitled to injunctive relief including sealing of their arrest and
20 prosecution records and declaring their arrests as legal nullities.

21 152. Certification of the classes under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(3) is
22 also appropriate, in that common questions of law and fact predominate over any
23 individual questions, and class action treatment is superior for the fair and efficient
24 adjudication of these class claims as detailed below.

25 153. The classes are entitled to monetary relief.

26 154. Regarding Named Plaintiffs and the other members of the Second Amendment
27 Class and the Nonresident Class and the Right to Return Class, there are no
28 individual questions on the issue of liability, because all members of the Second

1 Amendment Class and the Nonresident Class and the Right to Return Class are
2 injured by the same policy and practices.

3 155. Among the questions of law and fact common to the classes are:

- 4 1) whether the Chief's refusal to issue CCWs or licenses to openly carry based on
5 the Chief's exercise of their discretion to issue licenses and their implementation of
6 their own version of a CCW policy violated the Second Amendment;
- 7 2) whether the City's refusal to issue CCWs to non-residents violated the
8 Fourteenth Amendment;
- 9 3) whether the City has or had a policy, custom, or practice of never allowing
10 nonresidents to register pistols for carrying outside the home during the class period;
- 11 4) whether Named Plaintiffs and the members of the classes are entitled to
12 equitable relief, and, if so, what is the nature of that relief; and
- 13 5) whether a jury can determine the general damages for an entire class using a
14 damages matrix based on a trial using a non-random sample of the class members.

15 156. The Second Amendment Class and the Nonresident Class are both so
16 numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. The exact number of Second
17 Amendment Class and the Nonresident Class members is unknown to plaintiffs at
18 this time but each year over the last 3 years hundreds of people were arrested
19 violations of the City's unconstitutional gun licensing scheme, and hundreds were
20 never convicted.

21 157. Mr. Matthews', Mr. Hunn's, and Mr. Hearn's' claims are typical of the claims
22 of the other members of the Second Amendment Class and the Nonresident Class
23 because Mr. Matthews, Mr. Hunn, and Mr. Hearn's and all other members of the
24 Second Amendment Class and the Nonresident Class were injured by exactly the
25 same means, that is, by City's enforcement of its unconstitutional gun licensing
26 scheme.

27 158. Mr. Matthews, Mr. Hunn, and Mr. Hearn's on behalf of themselves and the
28 Second Amendment Class and the Nonresident Class will fairly and adequately

1 protect the interests of the members of the Second Amendment Class and the
2 Nonresident Class and have retained counsel who are competent and experienced in
3 complex federal civil rights class action litigation and criminal defense law including
4 the City's unconstitutional gun licensing scheme.

5 159. Mr. Matthews, Mr. Hunn, and Mr. Hearn on behalf of themselves and Second
6 Amendment Class and the Nonresident Class have no interests that are contrary to or
7 in conflict with those of the class or Second Amendment Class and the Nonresident
8 Class.

9 **CLASS RELIEF DEMANDS**

- 10 A. Mr. Matthews, Mr. Hunn, and Mr. Hearn as Named Plaintiffs on behalf of
11 themselves and all other members of the Second Amendment Class and the
12 Nonresident Class respectfully request that this Court grant the following relief:
- 13 B. Enter judgment in their favor on all of their claims;
- 14 C. Declare the City's definition of "good cause" and its licensing policies are
15 unconstitutional.
- 16 D. Award Mr. Matthews, Mr. Hunn, and Mr. Hearn and the other members of the
17 proposed classes nominal damages in connection with any declaration that the
18 City's definition of "good cause" and its licensing policies unconstitutional.
- 19 E. Grant a jury trial on all claims so triable.
- 20 F. Declare that this action may be maintained as a class action pursuant to Federal
21 Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) and Rule 23(b)(3) and certifying the Second
22 Amendment Class and the Nonresident Class, and designating Mr. Matthews,
23 Mr. Hunn, and Mr. Hearn as the proper representatives of the Second
24 Amendment Class, and Mr. Matthews as the proper representative of the
25 Nonresident Class and appointing William Claiborne as class counsel.
- 26 G. Declare that this action may be maintained as a class action pursuant to Federal
27 Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a), 23(b) (2) and 23(b)(3).

- 1 H. Award Mr. Matthews, Mr. Hunn, and Mr. Hearn and all other members of the
2 Second Amendment Class and Nonresident Class injunctive relief in the form
3 of sealing their arrest records and prosecution records and declaring their arrests
4 legal nullities;
- 5 I. Award all Mr. Matthews, Mr. Hunn, and Mr. Hearn and class members
6 compensatory and consequential damages in an amount to be determined at
7 trial;
- 8 J. Award plaintiffs attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing this action under
9 42 U.S.C. § 1988 or as determined under the "common fund" rule; and
- 10 K. Grant such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

11
12 Respectfully submitted,

13
14 /s/ Jovan Blacknell

15 JOVAN BLACKNELL (SBN 237162)

16 Counsel for Mr. Matthews, Mr. Hunn, and Mr.
17 Hearn on behalf of themselves and the putative
18 class members

19
20 Respectfully submitted,

21
22 /s/ William Claiborne

23 WILLIAM CLAIBORNE

24 *Pro hac vice* granted

25
26 Counsel for Mr. Matthews, Mr. Hunn, and Mr.
27 Hearn on behalf of themselves and the putative
28 class members

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JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs demand a jury of six as to all claims so triable.

/s/ Jovan Blacknell

JOVAN BLACKNELL (SBN 237162)

Counsel for Plaintiffs Mr. Matthews, Mr. Hunn,
and Mr. Hearn and the classes